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UNCLAS KUWAIT 003312

SIPDIS

NEA/ARP FOR CLAIRE KANESHIRO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [ETRD](#) [I2](#) [KU](#)

SUBJECT: MISSING KUWAIT AIRWAYS CORPORATION SPARE PARTS

REF: KUWAIT 2954 AND PREVIOUS

[1](#)1. Action request at para 3.

[1](#)2. Reftel describes GOK and Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) efforts to recover KAC spare parts reported looted by the former regime in Baghdad during its occupation of Kuwait. In para 4 below we provide the text of a letter from KAC dated 30 June sent to the Ambassador via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The letter follows up on earlier GOK and KAC action and requests that a KAC technical team be permitted to travel to Baghdad to recover the firm's spare parts in coordination with appropriate CPA authorities.

[1](#)3. Action request: Post asks for prompt CPA response to GOK request for assistance in repatriating KAC property from Baghdad.

[1](#)4. Begin verbatim text of letter sent to the Ambassador from Kuwait Airways Corporation dated June 30, 2003:

H.E. The Ambassador  
U.S. Embassy  
Kuwait

Dear Mr. Jones

As you may know, Kuwait Airways Corporation "KAC" which is solely owned by the Government of the State of Kuwait, lost most of its stock of Aircraft spare parts, engines, and equipments as a result of the unlawful take over and conversion acts by Iraqi Airways Company "IAC", during the invasion of the State of Kuwait in 1990-91.

As it is worth mentioning that, after the liberation of Kuwait, IAC returned some of these spares through the United Nation's Sanctions Commission, the fact remains that the major part of KAC spares was never retrieved. The Government of Kuwait was informed lately by KAC Management that truthful sources indicated that part of the KAC lost spares are laid in Baghdad International Airport and specifically in IAC bonded spares stores and that other considerable quantities of expensive spares were loaded by direct orders of high IAC officials in 6 containers and dispersed in two locations in Baghdad suburban area, so to be kept away from the U.S. Forces.

To the effect, the Government of the State of Kuwait would highly appreciate your kind assistance in taking the appropriate measures to advise the U.S. Civil Authorities in Iraq to enable KAC recuperating its lost spares that are located in Baghdad Intl. Airport (IAC Stores) and in other locations in Baghdad.

The Government of the State of Kuwait will arrange, upon your prompt and positive reply, for a KAC Technical Team to reach Baghdad and liaise with the U.S. Forces in a joint team, in order to locate, identify and transport -as soon as possible- to Kuwait, all spares that are identified and proven to be KAC property according to the KAC List of Lost Spares that will be presented as evidence on their undisputed property ship.

END text.

[1](#)6. Minimize considered  
JONES